

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Council of the Faculty of Arts and Science

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, February 21, 1992

Present: Dr. G. Valaskakis; M. Yates; B. Harris; P. Bird; S. Carter; F. Stevens; C.W. White; C. Foster; J. Gavin; P. Widden; E. Preston; G. Kanaan; M. Mendell; G. Fisher; W. Knitter; G. Auchinachie; W. Sellers; J. Anderson; S. Kumarapeli; J. Fiset; L. Crysler; C. Lévy; J. Locke; P. Allen; A. Teffeteller; C. Gray; R. Sharma; I. Robinson; M. Ainley; S. Hoecker-Drysdale; G. Newsham; C. Potworowski; M. Pruska-Carroll; J. Snyder; K. Beaudoin; K. Clément; D. Haufschild; A. Leonhardt; B. Leonhardt; C. McManaman; D. Parent.

Regrets: J. Appleby; B. Lewis; G. Decarie; W. Byers; M. Poirier; M. Brian.

Absent: J. Lightstone; M. Kusy; R. Pallen; H. McQueen; J. Woodsworth; N. Segalowitz; J. Vidmar; J.F. Plamondon; D. Awasti; E. Brown; E. Chan; H. Halsell; M. Innes; C. Nero; G. Pahinis; P. Toone.

Guests: M. Hogben; F. Muller; J. Hill; M. Malik; L. Orrell.

Documents Distributed and Considered at this meeting:

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| ASFC 92-2M-A | Elections/Ratification - Arts and Science Faculty Committees   |
| ASFC 92-2M-B | Letter from Dr. P. Widden  |
| ASFC 92-2M-C | Nominations for Non-Academic Awards - June 1992 Convocation  |
| ASFC 92-2M-D | Credit for Courses with Statistical Content  |
| ASFC 92-2M-E | Proposal for a School of Environmental Studies   |
| ASFC 92-2M-F | Commission for the Audit of Program Review Process - Procès-verbal de la cent quatre-vingt-unième réunion du Comité des affaires académiques |
| ASFC 92-2M-G | Communiqué from CREPUQ - Commission for the Audit of Program Review Processes  |

1. **Call to Order**

Dr. Valaskakis called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

92-2M-1 It was moved and seconded (Knitter-Widden) that the Agenda be approved as circulated with the notation "for information only" removed from Item 7.

**Carried.**

3. **Approval of the Minutes**

92-2M-2 It was moved and seconded (Potworowski/Hoecker-Drysdale) that the minutes of the Arts and Science Faculty Council meeting held January 17, 1992 be approved as circulated.

Mr. Parent asked that the word "adversarial" in Dr. Valaskakis' remarks on page 5 be changed.

Dr. Valaskakis stated that she had no objection to changing adversarial to another word.

Ms. Beaudoin asked that the letter from D. Awasti be put in the minutes in its entirety.

Dr. Valaskakis responded that the letter to which Ms. Beaudoin referred had been given a document number and was already part of the official documents of the meeting of January 17, 1992. It would be filed along with the minutes as part of the official dossier of that meeting.

**Carried.**

4. **Remarks from the Chair**

Dr. Valaskakis said that there were two Arts and Science faculty reports available. The first was the Report of the Computer Resources Committee. The second was the Report of the Task Force of the Colleges. Copies were available from Vice-Dean White's office.

## 5. Questions and Announcements

Dr. Valaskakis announced that Senate would hold an election at its March 6, 1992 meeting to elect one of three faculty members to sit on the Advisory Search Committee for the Director of Libraries. Nominations may be difficult to obtain since the time allotted was very short and spanned study week. However, members of Council were urged to submit nominations to Mr. John Noonan by March 4, 1992. A flyer with details was available from the office of the Dean. Two signatures or more were required on the nomination, as well as a short C.V. and the signature of the nominee stating that he or she will serve.

Mr. Parent informed Council of the recent election results of CUSA:

Co-presidents - C. Nero and P. Toone, had been declared the winners with a 31 vote margin. Students were expecting this result to be contested because of the closeness of the race. He informed Council that as far as the students were concerned they felt pleased to be moving along a very progressive path.

Dr. Valaskakis thanked Mr. Parent for his account of the student election results.

Ms. Beaudoin put forward a request to Council that all Council documents be done on two-sided copying, to reduce the amount of paper used.

Barbara Harris was granted speaking privileges to explain to Ms. Beaudoin that the Loyola Copy Centre did not have the equipment to facilitate two-sided copies and time constraints prevented the printing being sent downtown. The Dean's office would write a letter to the Copy Centre requesting that they upgrade their equipment at Loyola.

Dr. Valaskakis asked that the students also write to the Copy Centre in this regard, since Ms. Beaudoin's request was reasonable. Any other concerned parties were requested to do the same.

## 6. Elections/Ratification - Arts and Science Faculty Committees

92-2M-3

It was moved and seconded (Hoecker-Drysdale/Robinson) that Arts and Science Faculty Council accept the following nominations.

Dr. Valaskakis explained that she would deal with all the nominations for the Chairs Search Committees as a block, after which she would allow nominations from the floor.

**Advisory Search Committees for the Appointment of Chairperson for 1991/92**

**Department of Biology**

Dr. S.Twareque Ali MATH

**Department of Classics**

Dr. D. Frost GEOG

**Department of Education**

Dr. Marilyn Taylor APSS

**Department of English**

Dr. Geoffrey Adams HIST

**Department of Geology**

Dr. Lee Adler MATH

**Department of Mathematics and Statistics**

Dr. Morton Stelcner ECON

**Department of Philosophy**

Professor James Moore POLI

**Department of Physics**

Dr. Judith Kornblatt BIOL

**Department of Political Science**

Dr. Ron Rudin HIST

**Department of Theological Studies**

Dr. Jack McGraw PHIL

**Advisory Search Committees for the Appointment of Principal/Director for 1991/92**

**Department of Journalism**

Professor Katherine Waters ENGL

**Leisure Studies**

Dr. Michael Hogben CHEM

**Department of Library Studies**

Dr. Claude Lévy ETUDES & LBCL



**Loneragan University College**

Dr. Bill Gilsdorf COMS

Mr. D. Parent, wished to nominate Dr. R. Schade HIST to the Search Committee for a Chair of Philosophy, and Mr. B. Leonhardt wished to nominate Dr. S. Misra PHYS to the Search Committee for a Chair of Physics. Both these nominations were disallowed by the Chair of Council as prior consent of the nominees had not been obtained.

Dr. Valaskakis maintained that nominations from the floor would be entertained only if prior consent of nominees had been obtained as there were a number of people who were asked and had declined to serve. She pointed out that this was the rationale for having Notice of Elections one month in advance and having the nominations sent to Steering Committee before they were brought to Council. Dr. Valaskakis then ruled that nominations could not be accepted for people who had not agreed to serve.

**It was moved and seconded (Hoecker-Drysdale/Robinson) that the nominees as listed in document ASFC 92-2M-A be approved.**

**Carried with 3 abstentions.**

**NOTICE OF ELECTION****Arts and Science Faculty Council Status of Women Committee**

One (1) faculty member to replace Dr. S. Simon who has resigned (3-month term)

**Arts and Science Committee to Propose Nominees for Honourary Degrees**

Two (2) faculty members (one-year terms)

One (1) student member (one-year term)

**Council of the School of Graduate Studies**

Five (5) faculty members involved in graduate studies for varying terms (with at least one from the Sciences, Humanities and the Social Sciences):

One (1) (one-year term)

Two (2) (two-year terms)

Two (2) (three-year terms)

Dr. Valaskakis asked that nominations be submitted to Steering Committee for

these positions, to be voted on at the next Council meeting.

Dr. Levy wondered whether this call for nominations should not be more widely advertised within the Faculty. Dr. Valaskakis said it was a good idea and suggested that perhaps these Notices of Election were not advertised widely enough. She thought that notices should be sent to all Department Chairs as they were not all members of Council.

Dr. Auchinachie questioned whether he should circulate the current Notice of Election within his Department with a request that nominations should be sent to the Dean with permission of the nominee and a curriculum vitae.

Dr. Valaskakis responded that nominations should be sent to Steering Committee, that permission of the nominee was required and that a C.V. was not necessary.

## 7. Letter from Dr. Widden

92-2M-4

Dr. Valaskakis asked Dr. Widden to speak to the issue of his letter.

Dr. Widden explained that his motivation was to keep Council informed of what had transpired since he had been elected by this Council to sit on the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of Arts and Science. He explained that the clauses alluded to in his letter had been struck from the Confidentiality oath with respect to this particular Search Committee. He pointed out that this did not mean that the clauses were removed on a permanent basis but members of the Committee were now satisfied and its work could proceed.

He had no objection to Council putting forward a motion to the Board of Governors.

**It was moved and seconded (Hoecker-Drysdale/Auchinachie) that the following motion be sent to the Groome Committee in support of the action taken by the two members of this Council:**

**Arts and Science Faculty Council supports the positions taken by the Arts and Science members on the Advisory Search Committee in regard to the issue of confidentiality. Council applauds the Board's decision to withdraw those clauses from the oath on an operational basis and hopes that they would be removed on a permanent basis. Further, Council encourages as much openness in the search process as is deemed appropriate by the discretion and good judgement of the members of the Advisory Search Committee.**

Mr. Parent urged Council to protest to the Groome Committee and to the Board of Governors the erosion of some of the most important democratic principles by which we operated. He called on the members of Council to make a stand on this issue.

Mr. B. Leonhardt said that discretion was important but secrecy was another matter. He argued that secrecy prevented responsible people and responsible bodies from acting intelligently. He recognized that it was undesirable that information given in confidence that could harm someone should be released without their knowledge and approval, but any other knowledge whatsoever should be available to all responsible individuals and groups connected with the matters in hand. He strongly favoured the abolition of any such clauses in this and in any other mandate given to a committee.

### Carried

## **8. Nominations for Non-Academic Awards - June 1992 Convocation**

**92-2M-5** Dr. Valaskakis reminded Council that nominations of students from the faculty should be made for the following medals to be awarded at the June convocations: The Concordia Medal, The Malone Medal, The First Graduating Class Award, and The O'Brien Medal. All of these nominations should be sent directly to the Registrar's office and all members were encouraged to submit nominations.

Mr. Parent expressed a concern about the students' ability to make valid nominations for these awards because one of the criteria would most certainly be academic standing and students did not have access to one another's records. He referred to links with the issue of confidentiality. He felt that the students would have to have guidance in putting nominations forward.

Dr. Valaskakis said that she would bring this item to Steering Committee's attention.

## **9. Courses with Statistical Content**

**92-2M-6** It was moved and seconded (Stevens-Sellers) that Document ASFC-92-2M-D - Credit for Courses With Statistical Content - be approved.

Dr. Stevens traced a short history of the document:

There were needs for equivalents of statistical content courses both from the point of view of students who transferred from one program to another and needs by



departments to know that the statistical content of a course for which equivalents were granted was indeed appropriate for the course in their department. There was a list of equivalencies in the calendar which did not work well. There was clearly a need for improvement. The action that was taken was that all the courses involved were reviewed. Course descriptions and course outlines were requested and reviewed by the Curriculum Committee. There was written consultation undertaken with the departments which unveiled many problems and finally there was a meeting of everyone involved. The result of discussions showed that the second level statistical courses were deemed not to be equivalent, these were so specific that they had to be taught in each of the departments, and so they were eliminated from the list. With the introductory statistical courses it was decided that the equivalence per se was not possible in most cases, therefore the committee came up with the idea that there should be a hierarchical order. The document submitted to Council was so ordered. The substitutions worked downwards but not upwards, for example if a student switched from Geology to Math, then the Geology course being at the top of the pyramid would substitute for MATH 207 but it would not work backwards.

Carried.

#### **10. Proposal for a Graduate College of Environmental Studies**

**92-2M-7** It was moved and seconded (White-Kumarapeli) that Arts and Science Faculty Council accept in principal the Proposal for the Graduate College of Environmental Studies (Document 92-2M-E).

Dr. White introduced two members of the Proposal Committee, Dr. Muller of Economics, and Dr. Hogben of Chemistry & Biochemistry who were guests at Council. He explained that another member of the Proposal Committee, Dr. S. Kumarapeli, was already a member of Council. Dr. White requested speaking privileges for Drs. Muller and Hogben. Permission was so granted.

Dr. Valaskakis invited Drs. Muller and Hogben to speak on behalf of the proposal to give Council an introduction to this issue.

Dr. Muller thanked Dr. Valaskakis for allowing this motion to come to Council. He also thanked the people who had given him initial support for the idea, former dean Dr. Bertrand, Vice-Dean White and Vice-Dean Stevens. He mentioned the many helpful letters received from colleagues and from many Department Chairs. He pointed out that this proposal was quite unique and ambitious for the Province of Quebec as well as for Canada, to try and incorporate two faculties, Arts and



Science and Engineering and Computer Science under the headline of Environmental Studies. It was initially aimed at the graduate level but could be extended to include undergraduates.

Dr. Auchinachie asked if Commerce was excluded because they were not interested in the topic or for any other reason. Dr. Muller responded that Commerce had been invited to participate but provided a limited response. He noted that there was no reason why they could not be included in the future.

Dr. Widden expressed his pleasure at seeing such a proposal put forward, however, he expressed alarm that this document presented an entire environmental studies proposal which totally omitted one of the foundation disciplines, and questioned why Biology had not been involved.

Dr. Hogben explained that the proposal was put together by a small committee, and that it represented only a shell or framework, and that the future of the college would depend upon those people who became part of it. Although, there were only six departments listed on the proposal committee, it was impossible to imagine an Environmental Studies College without Biology, Chemistry, Commerce, or without a whole series of departments. It was hoped that members of the Biology Department would actively contribute.

Dr. Fisher inquired what the resource implications were, if any.

Dr. Muller responded resource implications would depend on how much further the proposal went. He felt that it was too early in its development to know what the resource implications would be and who and what would be involved.

Dr. Valaskakis commented that it was for that very reason the motion was to be approved in principle only. Once it was developed it would have to come back to Council and eventually go to Senate.

Dr. Valaskakis brought Dean Swamy's letter to Council's attention in which he indicated his approval in principle of the proposal, however he had not gone through the proposal in detail and it had not yet been presented to the Engineering and Computer Science Faculty Council for approval. It was felt that it should first be brought before Arts and Science Faculty Council, however his immediate response was approval in principle so that the process that was just now beginning could be started.

Dr. Hogben said that he was encouraged by the constructive responses the committee received from many departments and from Steering Committee. The

overwhelming response to the document was a positive one and he hoped that in the end there would be a committee of upwards of 10 to 12 fellows from existing departments and that the major departments with links to the environment would be represented.

Mr. Parent asked if in the long term goals undergraduate students were to be included.

Dr. Muller responded that if the program worked, he hoped that it would include undergraduates. Research grant applications required that graduate students be involved and working with graduate students initially would keep things on a smaller scale.

Dr. Gray greeted the proposal with enthusiasm but requested that it be made explicit, what was meant by approval in principle.

Dr. Hogben responded that it gave the Deans of Arts and Science and Engineering and Computer Science the approval to begin negotiations with the Dean of Graduate Studies. This all had to be negotiated at the Dean's level especially as the Graduate College would report to the Dean of Graduate Studies. However the money and faculty resources resided with the Deans of Engineering and Arts and Science and so when it came to resources, exchange of faculty, and cross appointments, there was need for discussion. Once Faculty Councils approved the idea then the deans could engage in dialogue.

Dr. White commented that another implication of approval in principle, was that this graduate college would house a graduate program of its own, the Master's in Environmental Studies. In order to get that proposal underway there must be someone to propose it, therefore approval in principle for preliminary infrastructure for the Graduate College of Environmental Studies meant that this group may go ahead with their formal proposal for the graduate program which would take the usual amount of time.

Dr. Valaskakis expressed her thanks to the committee for the work and the initiative put into the proposal and expressed her hope that this initiative would be successful. There was support for it across the University and in different faculties and she took the approval in principle to mean the beginning of the process. Once the developmental process was completed the final proposal would again be presented to Council before going to Senate and other Councils involved.

**Carried.**

**11. Communiqué - Commission for the Audit of Program Review Processes ASFC 92-2M-F and ASFC 92-2M-G**

Dr. Valaskakis pointed out that this document was for information only at the request of the Vice-Rector Academic, Dr. Sheinin. CREPUQ was requesting an evaluation system for all academic programs at Quebec universities and Concordia was implementing its own appraisals process.

**12. Next Meeting of Council**

The next meeting of Arts and Science Faculty Council would be Friday, March 20, 1992.

**13. Adjournment**

**92-2M-9**      It was moved and seconded (Potworowski/White) that the meeting be adjourned at 3:03 p.m.